KNIGHTS TEMPLAR NEVADA

Official Commandery Opening and Closing

To be used by all constituent Commanderies in the State of Nevada

Dated
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Nevada Knights Templar Ritual – ABP 5-2016
GENERAL RULES
Knight Templar Open and Close

1. Whenever an officer is called upon, he rises, advances one pace (30 inches) (see # 14 below), executes Draw Swords and comes to Carry Swords.

2. In addressing (reporting) a ranking officer or subordinate officer, never speak through the sword. Address the officer, say their title, and then perform the required Present Swords or Salute Swords, then continue the report.

3. In resuming your seat, after reporting, return the sword and then take two (2) fifteen inch steps back (see # 14 below) to your station\place and then be seated.

4. Execution of Present Swords or Salute Swords is always done in positive motions and not in a hurry to get the sword into position.

5. The only line officers in a Commandery to use the Salute Swords are the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General.

6. The American Flag will be placed behind the Sword Bearer’s station. When ordered by the Commander, the Standard Bearer will present the Flag in the center of the Asylum prior to the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, the Standard Bearer will post the Flag at the right and slightly in front of the Commander’s station in the East. Only one American Flag will be present in the Asylum. The US Flag is never dipped. The Standard Bearer does not recite the Pledge.

7. The Commandery Standard will be placed behind the Standard Bearer’s Station.

8. The Beauceant Standard will be placed behind the Warder’s Station.

9. The Prelate may either wear a robe or the Templar Uniform without a sword. When in a robe, the Prelate Bows when addressed and, Hand Salutes when in uniform.

10. When an Officer gives a command, there should always be a noticeable pause between commands. Such as: 1. DRAW, -- 2. SWORDS. 1. CARRY, -- 2. SWORDS. Other commands are just like these - use a paused count or military cadence\beat.

11. In the Commandery, a Junior Officer does not verbally respond when addressed by a Senior Officer, he only rises, faces the Senior Officer, and executes Present Swords. The exception to this would be in calling up a subordinate officer or reporting to a Senior Officer.

12. A Past Commander serving in a line station gives Present Swords, never Salute Swords. (If in a Dias Officer station - see number 5 above.)

13. When saluting a senior, the junior always salutes first as a sign of respect. The junior then holds his salute until the senior drops his salute. The junior never drops his salute before the senior.

14. In stepping off forward (full pace), normally start with the left foot unless specifically directed different. An exception to this is the “On Guard” position where you advance with the right foot. In stepping off backward (half step), always begin with the right foot.

15. An About Face begins with the right foot moving to the rear and a pivot to the right (on right toe and left heel).

16. The Prelate kneels at the Triangle during devotions (if able). The Prelate gives signs at the Triangle.
17. While making the declaration in opening or closing the Commandery, the Commander will rise, execute Draw Swords, come to Carry Swords, and then execute the position of Cross Swords, and at the conclusion of his declaration, will come back to Carry Swords before giving any further orders.

18. When sitting, junior officers follow the lead of the senior officer. Junior officers will only seat themselves when the senior officer sits and not before.

19. The Treasurer, Recorder, and Prelate do not wear a sword, thus they will Hand Salute when called upon. The Treasurer and Recorder positions are shown in the Plates on Page 10.

Wearing of a sword by the Standard Bearer is at the Commander’s option.
NEVADA KNIGHT TEMPLAR FULL FORM OPENING

(At the appointed time for Opening the Commandery, the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, and Prelate assemble in the Southeast corner of the Asylum. The Commander is toward the East facing West with the Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate forming a line from North to South facing the Commander. The Generalissimo is on the North side and the Prelate is on the South side of the line. All Line Officers are milling about when the Captain General reports to the Commander.)

**CG:** Eminent Commander.

(Captain General gives *Hand Salute*, Commander acknowledges with *Hand Salute*.)

**CG:** I report for orders.

**C:** Sir Knight Captain General, see that the Asylum is in suitable array for my reception.

(Captain General gives *Hand Salute*. Commander acknowledges with *Hand Salute*.)

**C:** Sir Knight Generalissimo and Excellent Prelate, accompany me to my apartment.

(Generalissimo gives *Hand Salute*, Prelate (if in robe) *Bows* (otherwise, if in uniform, will give *Hand Salute*), Commander acknowledges with *Hand Salute*.)

(The Commander, Generalissimo, and Prelate, in that order, march single file from the Asylum to the apartment of the Commander through the preparation room door. After receiving the Commander’s orders, the Captain General takes a position one pace in front of the Commander’s station, executes an *About Face*, draws his sword, comes to *Carry Swords* and commands:)

**CG:** Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder, wherever in the asylum, executes *Draw Swords* and gives *Present Swords*. Captain General acknowledges with *Salute Swords*.)

**CG:** Sound the assembly.

(The Warder advances to within one pace of his station, executes *About Face* (or, faces the East) and commands:)

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(The Warder executes Return Swords after his command of ‘ATTENTION’, all officers except the Sentinel and Captain General fall in on a line facing east flanked by the Senior and Junior Wardens. The Standard Bearer will be on the center line of the Asylum with the Warder on his left and the Sword Bearer on his right. The Recorder will be on the right of the Sword Bearer and the Treasurer will be on the left of the Warder. All officers will fall in and maintain close contact.)

CG: [1] Officers,

(Officers all give Hand Salute when addressed. Captain General acknowledges with Salute Swords.)


(Following command No. 2, the Junior Warden executes a Left Face; the Warder, Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer execute an About Face; and the Senior Warden executes a Right Face. Stepping off simultaneously, all Officers will march to one pace in front of their station, halt, execute About Face and stand at Attention until the fourth command. Officers will take two fifteen inch steps backwards (right foot first) to regain their chairs. Captain General then executes Return Swords and is seated. If any Officer’s station is vacant, he selects a Sir Knight to fill the vacancy.)

CG: Sir Knight Senior Warden.

(The Senior Warden rises, steps forward one pace (left foot), executes Draw Swords, executes Half Right Face and gives Present Swords. Captain General acknowledges with Hand Salute.)

CG: Are all present Knights Templar?

(The Senior Warden faces the Junior Warden and says:)

SW: Sir Knight Junior Warden.

(Junior Warden rises, steps forward one pace (left foot), executes Draw Swords, and gives Present Swords. Senior Warden acknowledges with Present Swords and comes to Carry Swords. Junior Warden comes to Carry Swords.)
SW: Ascertain if all present on the North of the Asylum are Knights Templar.

(The Senior and Junior Wardens march directly to within two paces west of the Captain General and Generalissimo stations, outward face respectively. They march to and along the South and North side of the Asylum to the West and, turning on a line one pace in front of the Sword Bearer and Warder, they will halt in front of the Sword Bearer and Warder stations. While moving along the sidelines, they carefully scrutinize those seated and challenge any who are not Sir Knights.)

JW: Sir Knight Senior Warden.

(Junior Warden gives Present Swords. Senior Warden acknowledges with Present Swords. Both come to Carry Swords before the Junior Warden continues speaking.)

JW: All present on the North of the Asylum are Knights Templar.

(The Wardens then face the East simultaneously, march directly to within one pace in front of their stations and halt, both facing the Commander’s station. The Senior Warden reports:)

SW: Sir Knight Captain General.

(Senior Warden gives Present Swords. Captain General acknowledges with Hand Salute. Senior Warden comes to Carry Swords and says:)

SW All present are Knights Templar.

(The Wardens face each other, Return Swords together, and are seated by taking two fifteen inch steps (right foot first) back to the chair.)

CG: Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder rises, steps forward one pace (left foot), executes Draw Swords and comes to Carry Swords, and gives Present Swords. Captain General acknowledges with Hand Salute. The Warder comes to Carry Swords after the Captain General drops his salute.)

CG: Post the Sentinel. Inform him that a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened and direct him to guard accordingly.

(The Warder executes a Right Face, and stepping off with the left foot, passing in front of the Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer stations, retires to the anteroom, closes the door and says:)
W:  Sir Knight Sentinel.

(Sentinel executes Draw Swords (if not already at Carry Swords) and gives Present Swords. The Warder acknowledges with Present Swords. Both come to Carry Swords.)

W:  A Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened. Take your post and guard accordingly.

(The Warder returns to the Asylum, executes an About Face, closes the door, and knocks with the flat of the sword on the door casing (** *** ** *), and when answered (** *** ** *) by the Sentinel, executes an About Face, and returns to his place by passing in front of the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer stations - goes to within one pace in front of his station, halts, executes a Right Face, and reports:)

W:  Sir Knight Captain General.

(The Warder gives Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with Hand Salute.)

W:  The Sentinel is at his post and the Asylum is duly guarded.

(The Warder executes Return Swords and is seated by taking two fifteen inch steps back to his chair.)

CG:  Sir Knight Senior Warden.

(The Senior Warden rises, steps forward one pace (left foot), executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes Half Right Face and gives Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)
Forming the Lines

**CG:** Form the lines for the reception of the Commander.

(Senior Warden steps inward from his station to a point in line with the Captain General and Sword Bearer stations, executes Left Face, steps two paces West, executes a Right Face and commands. Note: The length of step may vary depending on the size of the Asylum.)

**SW:** Fall, in.

(The Junior Warden will step inward from his station to a point in line with the Generalissimo and Warder stations, executes a Right Face, then steps two paces west and does a Left Face opposite the Senior Warden. The Sword Bearer and Warder fall in line with and two paces east of the Junior and Senior Wardens, facing inward together. The Standard Bearer remains one pace in front of this station. [See Plate #1, Page 10.] When all are in line, the Senior Warden commands:)


(All Sir Knights in line, execute Draw Swords after which the Senior Warden steps forward one pace (left foot), executes a Right Face and reports:)

**SW:** Sir Knight Captain General.

(The Senior Warden gives Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

**SW:** The lines are formed.

(The Senior Warden executes a Left Face, takes 2 fifteen inch steps backward and makes certain he is in line with the Sword Bearer. The Captain General rises, takes one pace forward (left foot), executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords and commands:)

**CG:** Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder takes one pace forward (left foot), faces the Captain General and gives Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)
CG: Repair to the apartment of the Commander and report that the Asylum is in suitable array for his reception.

(The Warder executes an About Face and retires West between the lines to the preparation room, opening the door and leaving the door open. He reports to the Commander. The Warder executes a Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with Hand Salute.)

W: Eminent Commander. (Present Swords\Hand Salute)

W: The Asylum is in suitable array for your reception.

C: Lead on Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder executes an About Face and enters the Asylum in advance, halts, and announces in a loud voice:)

W: The Eminent Commander approaches.

(Warder returns to his place in the reception line.)


(All Sir Knights in the Asylum will follow the Captain General’s orders. The Captain General now moves to within one pace in front of his station and will come to Salute Swords. The Commander will pause at the door until the Captain General has come to Salute Swords. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Prelate enter the Asylum in that order. The Commander salutes the colors (in the West) as he approaches and all continue by passing between the lines. The Commander only recognizes the honor and uncovers as he marches between the lines. He recovers immediately after passing through the lines and proceeds to his station. Commander, Generalissimo, and Prelate halt, one pace in front of their respective stations and execute an About Face together. [See Plate #2, Page 10] The Commander and Generalissimo Draw Swords together and the Generalissimo goes to Salute Swords and the Commander to Carry Swords. Then the Commander commands:)

Note: If they are present: Any Past Commander or Past Grand Commander not filling a line vacancy will give Salute Swords. Grand Commandery dais officers not filling a vacancy will give Salute Swords. Grand Commandery Officers who are not filling a vacancy and are not dais officers will Salute Swords.

Positions Plate

REHEARSAL and TRIANGLE DIAGRAM

1. Commander
2. Generalissimo
3. Captain General
4. Senior Warden
5. Junior Warden
6. Prelate
7. Treasurer
8. Recorder
9. Standard Bearer
10. Sword Bearer
11. Warder
Rehearsal

**C:** Sir Knight Captain General.

(Captain General steps forward one pace (left foot), executes a Right Face and gives Salute Swords. Commander acknowledges with Salute Swords.)

**C:** Form the lines for Rehearsal.


(At 5th command, Generalissimo advances one pace (left foot) so that he is even with the Captain General. At 6th command, Generalissimo and Captain General then simultaneously march to the West and halt two paces to the East of the lines and face inward together. [See Plate #3, Page 10.])

(Captain General then executes a Right Face to face the Commander.)

**CG:** Eminent Commander.

(The Captain General gives Salute Swords. The Commander acknowledges with Salute Swords. The Captain General comes to Carry Swords and reports:)

**CG:** The lines are formed.

(The Captain General then executes a Left Face. All officers will remain to form the Triangle.)

(The Commander gives orders for Rehearsal from one pace in front of his station. South line is 1st Division. North line is 2nd Division.)

Note: Returning to position is executed differently in the first execution (Pilgrim Warrior’s Word) as opposed to the second execution (Pilgrim Penitent’s Word) – See below.


**C:** [1] Second Division, communicate to the First Division, the Pilgrim Penitent’s Word. [2] On, Guard, [3] Parry One, [4] Parry Two, [5] Parry Three, [6] Parry Four, [7] Advance, (Each Sir Knight will advance one full pace with their left foot, and place their left feet beside each other, at the same time, placing their...
left hand on each other’s right shoulder.)  [8] Communicate. (The Word is:  G; the response:  P O T S.)  [9] Carry, (This Carry is not a preparatory command. At the 9th Command, each Sir Knight takes one full step back with their left foot while releasing their grip with their left hand on their fellow Sir Knight’s Right shoulder. – coming back to On Guard. This is an exception to the rule to get everyone out of this position.)  [10] Swords. (At the 10th Command, all assume Carry Swords.)  [11] Return, [12] Swords. (Note: The Commander does not Return Swords but remains at Carry Swords. The Commander should ensure that he gives enough time for all to return their swords to their scabbards before saying Swords. At the command Swords, all will drop their swords to allow them to reseat the hilt.)


C: Sir Knights, as your fingers are thus strongly interlaced, so should the hearts of all Knights Templar be firmly united, in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Over this symbol of our faith, communicate.

(The Knights of the First Division will say the word [E]. The Knights of the Second Division will then cross their arms, fingers still interlaced, and give the response [G W U]. This should all be done together in unison.)


(Two steps backwards - step off backwards with the right foot – half steps or 15 inches.)
Forming the Triangle

C: Sir Knight Captain General.

(The Captain General executes a Right Face and gives a Hand Salute. Commander acknowledges with Salute Swords.)

C: Form the Triangle preparatory to our Devotions.

(Captain General executes a Left Face and says:)


(The Generalissimo and Captain General each take one pace forward (left foot). Warder and Sword Bearer remain where they are. Senior and Junior Wardens each take two steps backward (start with right foot). Standard Bearer moves forward from his station to a point in line with the Senior and Junior Wardens forming the base of the Triangle. (At the option of the Commander if he secures the Beauceant before assuming his position.)

[See Plate #4, Page 10])

CG: (Turns to face the Commander and reports:) Eminent Commander.

(Captain General gives Hand Salute. Commander acknowledges with Salute Swords.)

CG: The Triangle is formed.

(Captain General now turns to face the Generalissimo again.)


(Commander executes Return Swords.)

C: Excellent Prelate.

(Prelate Bows (if in robes), otherwise executes a Hand Salute. Commander acknowledges with Hand Salute.)
C: Accompany me to the Triangle.

(Prelate enters the Triangle between the Generalissimo and Captain General (at the apex of the triangle) and places himself between the Warder and Sword Bearer, and executes an About Face. Commander forms apex of Triangle after Prelate enters.)


(All Sir Knights uncover (Prelate uncovers if in uniform but not if in robes). Commander then uncover. Prelate kneels (unless it is difficult to do so), and without command, leads the devotions ending with the Lord’s Prayer - which all Sir Knights recite together, the Commander recovers and commands.)


(All recover - including the Prelate, if in uniform. Prelate stands. The Commander executes an About Face, goes to the East to one pace in front of his station, executes an About Face, and commands.)


(All Sir Knights in the Asylum give the signs keeping pace with the Commander. Signs given are Red Cross, Malta, and Order of the Temple. After the signs, the Commander executes Draw Swords and comes to Carry Swords.)


(The Commander then executes Return Swords and is seated.)
Rehearsal of Duties

(Each officer, on being addressed by the Commander, will rise from his chair, advance one pace (left foot) in front of his station, come to ‘Attention’, draw his sword, come to Carry Swords, face the Commander, and execute Present Swords, which the Commander will acknowledge by a Hand Salute. After the question ‘Your Duty?’ he will recite his part. On completion, he will face to the front and stand at ‘Attention’ while still at “Carry Swords” until the opening is completed. The Generalissimo will Return Swords and resume his seat following the completion of his first response.)

C: Sir Knight Generalissimo.

(The Generalissimo rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords and comes to Carry Swords, faces the Commander and gives a Salute Swords. Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Are you a Knight Templar?

G: That is my title.

C: Where were you created a Knight Templar?

G: In a regular and duly constituted Commandery of Knights Templar.

C: How many compose such a Commandery?

G: There is an indispensable number and a constitutional number.

C: What is the indispensable number?

G: Three.

C: Under what circumstances may three form and open a Commandery?

G: Three Knights Templar hailing from three separate Commanderies and acting under a lawful Warrant, may form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar for the dispatch of business.

C: What is the Constitutional number?
G: Nine or more.

C: When composed of eleven, who are they?

G: The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warder.

C: The station of the Warder?

G: On the left of the Standard Bearer, and on the left of the Second Division when separately formed.

(Generalissimo executes Return Swords, faces front, takes two backward steps and is seated.)

C: Your duty?

W: To sound the assembly; post the Sentinel; announce the approach and departure of the Commander; and see the Asylum is duly guarded.

C: The station of the Sword Bearer?

W: On the right of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Second Division when duly formed.

C: Sir Knight Sword Bearer.

(Shield Bearer rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, and gives Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?
SwB: To assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.

C: The station of the Standard Bearer?

SwB: In the West and in the center of the Second Division.

C: Sir Knight Standard Bearer.

(Standard Bearer rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, and gives Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

StB: To display, support, and protect the Banner of our order.

C: Why are you stationed in the West?

StB: That the brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding luster upon the Banner of our Order, may animate and encourage all valiant and magnanimous Knights, and dismay and confound their enemies.

C: The station of the Recorder?

StB: On the left and in front of the Captain General.

C: Sir Knight Recorder.

(Recorder rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, faces the Commander and gives a Hand Salute. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

Rec: Faithfully to record the transactions of the Commandery, collect the revenue and pay it over to the Treasurer.

C: The station of the Treasurer?
Rec: On the right and in front of the Generalissimo.

C: Sir Knight Treasurer.

(Treasurer rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, faces the Commander, and gives a Hand Salute. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

Tr: To receive in charge all the funds and property of the Commandery, pay all orders drawn on the Treasury, and render a true account when required.

C: The station of the Prelate?

Tr: On the right of the Generalissimo.

C: Excellent Prelate.

(Prelate rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, faces the Commander and Bows, if in robes, or gives a Hand Salute, if in uniform. Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

P: To minister at the Altar and offer up prayers to Deity.

C: The station of the Junior Warden?

P: At the North-West angle of the Triangle; on the right or in front of the Third Division when separately formed; and on the left of the Commandery when in line.

C: Sir Knight Junior Warden.

(Junior Warden rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes a Half Left Face and gives Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?
JW: To attend poor and weary Pilgrims traveling from afar, accompany them on their journey and in due time recommend them to the Commander.

C: The station of the Senior Warden?

JW: At the South-West angle of the Triangle; on the right or in front of the First Division when separately formed; and on the right of the Commandery when in line.

C: Sir Knight Senior Warden.

(Senior Warden rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes a Half Right Face and gives Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

SW: To attend Pilgrim Warriors; comfort and support Pilgrim Penitents, and after due trial introduce them into the Asylum.

C: The station of the Captain General?

SW: On the left of the Commander.

C: Sir Knight Captain General.

(Captain General rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes a Right Face, and gives a Salute Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

CG: To see that due preparation is made for the conclaves of the Commandery; that the Asylum is in suitable array for the introduction of candidates and the dispatch of business; to execute the orders of the Commander and in his absence and that of the Generalissimo to preside.

C: The station of the Generalissimo?
CG: On the right of the Commander.

(Captain General then executes a Left Face to face forward again.)

C: Sir Knight Generalissimo.

(Generalissimo rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes a Left Face, and gives a Salute Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Your duty?

G: To assist the Commander in the duties of his office and in his absence to preside.

C: The station of the Commander?

G: In the East, or at the head of the Commandery.

C: His duty?

G: To distribute alms to poor and weary Pilgrims traveling from afar; feed the hungry; clothe the naked; and bind up the wounds of the afflicted; to inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality, and govern the Commandery with justice and moderation.

C: Sir Knight Generalissimo. (No exchange of salutes at this time.)

C: It is my order that ____________ Commandery, No. _____ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous Order. This you will communicate this to the Captain General, and he, to the Knights.

G: Sir Knight Captain General.

(Captain General executes a Right Face and gives Salute Swords. The Generalissimo acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)
It is the order of the Commander that ______ Commandery, No. ____ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Knights.

(Captain General executes a Left Face. The Generalissimo continues facing the Captain General.)


(The Generalissimo and Captain General do not Present Swords. Any Past Commander or Past Grand Commander not filling a line vacancy will give Salute Swords. Grand Commandery dais officers not filling a vacancy will give Salute Swords. Grand Commandery Officers who are not filling a vacancy and not dais officers will Salute Swords. The Captain General executes a Right Face.)

Sir Knight Generalissimo.

(The Captain General then gives a Salute Swords. The Generalissimo acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)

The order of the Commander has been executed.

(The Captain General executes a Left Face.)

Eminent Commander.

(The Generalissimo gives a Sword Salute. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)
G: Your order has been obeyed.

(The Generalissimo then faces west. The Commander rises, takes one pace forward and executes **Draw Swords**. As he draws his sword (and the sword is extended), the Generalissimo and Captain General go to **Present Swords** (1st motion of **Salute Swords**). As the Commander executes the 2nd motion to come to **Carry Swords**, the Generalissimo and Captain General complete the 2nd motion of the Officer’s **Salute Swords**. The movements of the three officers are to be simultaneous.)

(The Commander then comes to the **Cross Swords** position and declares:)

Note: **Cross Swords** consists of two movements. The 1st movement is to come to **Present Swords**. The 2nd movement is to come to **Parry One**.

C: I now declare ____________ Commandery, No. ___ opened in due form.

(The Commander comes back to the **Carry Swords** position in one movement.)


(All Sir Knights come to **Carry Swords**. The Commander waits for the Prelate to open the Bible. The Prelate opens the Bible to Matthew 25 with **Crossed Swords** (if used) beneath the Bible, the Cross centered on the right side, and Square and Compasses on the left side in a Master Mason format, without command, the Prelate then takes one step backward and gives a **Hand Salute**, if in uniform, or **Bows**, if in robes.)

The Rule for crossed swords: Handles to the top of the Bible if in time of peace (or, pointing downwards). Handles to the bottom of the Bible in time of war (or, pointing upwards).

C: Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder - standing one pace in front of his station - gives **Present Swords**. The Commander acknowledges with a **Salute Swords**.)

C: Inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly.

(The Warder executes a **Right Face** and steps off with his left foot passing in front of the Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer stations to the door, he retires from the room, and informs the Sentinel:)
W: Sir Knight Sentinel.

(The Sentinel executes Draw Swords (if not already at Carry Swords), gives a Present Swords. Warder acknowledges with Present Swords.

W: The Commandery is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly.

(The Warder returns to the Asylum, executes an About Face, closes the door and knocks with the flat of his sword on the door casing {*** *** *** *}, which is answered {*** *** *** *) by the Sentinel. The Warder executes an About Face, returns to his place, by passing in front of the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer to one pace in front of his station, he then executes a Right Face and reports:)

W: Eminent Commander.

(The Warder gives a Present Swords. Commander acknowledges with Salute Swords.)

W: Your order has been obeyed.


(All Sir Knights return swords.)

(C: Sir Knight Standard Bearer.

(The Standard Bearer advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, gives a Hand Salute. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: Present the Flag of our Country in the center of the Asylum.

(The Standard Bearer advances to the flag and salutes the Flag with a Hand Salute, and secures the Flag. The Commander commands:)


(Standard Bearer carries Flag to the center of the Asylum.)

Note: The flag shall not be extended/dipped any further than 15 degrees at any time during the ceremony. When carried, the flag should be perpendicular.
C: Sir Knights, you will join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

(All Sir Knights are at Hand Salute while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Standard Bearer does not salute or recite the Pledge. The Commander, with the Sir Knights, recites the Pledge. After the Pledge, the Standard Bearer posts the Flag in its proper place in the East, takes one pace back, salutes the flag and holds it until the Commander commands.)


(The Standard Bearer returns to within one pace of his station and executes an About Face.)


(All Sir Knights are seated. Commander takes his seat.)

Note: A pedestal and gavel are to be provided for the Commander during Stated Conclaves.
KNIGHT TEMPLAR CLOSING

C: Sir Knight Captain General.

(The Captain General rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, executes a Right Face and gives a Salute Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

C: I am about to close this Commandery. See that the Sentinel is informed and that he guard accordingly.

(The Captain General executes a Left Face and commands:)

CG: Sir Knight Warder.

(The Warder rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, and gives a Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)

CG: Inform the Sentinel that the Commander is about to close this Commandery and direct him to guard accordingly.

(The Warder executes a Right Face and, stepping off with the left foot, passes in front of the Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer stations, retires to the anteroom, closes the door and says:)

W: Sir Knight Sentinel.

(The Sentinel executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords (if not already at Carry Swords), and gives a Present Swords. The Warder acknowledges with a Present Swords.)

W: The Commander is about to close this Commandery. Take due notice and guard accordingly.

(The Warder returns to the Asylum, executes an About Face, closes the door and knocks with the flat of his sword on the door casing (*****) which is answered (*** ***) by the Sentinel. The Warder executes an About Face, returning to his place by passing in front of the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer stations, stopping within one pace in front of his station, halts, executes a Right Face, and reports:)

W: Sir Knight Sentinel.

(The Sentinel executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords (if not already at Carry Swords), and gives a Present Swords. The Warder acknowledges with a Present Swords.)

W: The Commander is about to close this Commandery. Take due notice and guard accordingly.

(The Warder returns to the Asylum, executes an About Face, closes the door and knocks with the flat of his sword on the door casing (*****) which is answered (*** ***) by the Sentinel. The Warder executes an About Face, returning to his place by passing in front of the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer stations, stopping within one pace in front of his station, halts, executes a Right Face, and reports:)

W: The Commander is about to close this Commandery. Take due notice and guard accordingly.
W: Sir Knight Captain General.

(The Warder gives a Present Swords. The Captain General acknowledges with Salute Swords.)

W: The Sentinel is informed.

(The Warder executes a Return Swords, steps back two steps, and is seated. The Captain General executes a Right Face, and says:)

CG: Eminent Commander.

(The Captain General gives a Salute Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Hand Salute.)

CG: Your order has been obeyed.

(The Captain General executes a Left Face (again facing west), executes a Return Swords, steps back two steps, and is seated.)

(The Commander rises, advances one pace (left foot) in front of his station, executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords and commands:)


(The Prelate faces the Commander and Bows. (Or, Hand Salutes if in uniform) The Commander acknowledges with a Salute Swords and returns to Carry Swords.)

C: Lead our Devotions.

(The Commander then comes to Order Swords and uncovers. The Prelate waits for the Commander to uncover and come to Order Swords and then gives the Devotions.)

(The Commander recovers and comes to Carry Swords.)


(The Commander then comes to the Cross Swords position and declares:)

Note: Cross Swords consists of two movements. The 1st movement is to come to Present Swords. The 2nd movement is to come to Parry One.
C: I now declare ______ Commandery, No. ______ duly closed.

(The Commander comes back to the Carry Swords position in one movement.)

(The Prelate now steps to the Altar and executes a Hand Salute if in uniform or Bows if in robes; removes the Square, Compasses, and Cross; closes the Bible; places the Square, Compasses, and Cross on the Bible (or if a stand is provided for the Cross – in the stand); steps back one step, and remains in this position until the Sir Knights are dismissed by the Commander.)

C: Sir Knight Warder.

(Warder executes Draw Swords, comes to Carry Swords, and gives a Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)

C: Inform the Sentinel.

(The Warder executes a Right Face, passes in front of the Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer Stations, goes to ante room door, opens it and informs the Sentinel:)

W: Sir Knight Sentinel, the Commandery is closed.

(There is no saluting, no knocking, and the door remains open. The Warder returns to his station, passing in front of the Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer stations to one pace in front of his station, executes a Right Face and reports:)

W: Eminent Commander.

(The Warder gives Present Swords. The Commander acknowledges with a Salute Swords.)

W: The Sentinel is informed.

(The Commander waits while the Warder executes Return Swords.)

C: Sir Knights, you are dismissed.